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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): J. Sam Cureton, et al.  
Serial No. : 09/044,426  
Filed: March 19, 1998  
Title: "SATELITE BASED GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM  
FOR FEEDLOT COMPUTER NETWORK AND  
METHOD"  
Art Unit: 2161  
Examiner: Thomas A. Dixon  
Attorney Docket No.: 0972-011I (056179)

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Commissioner of  
Patents & Trademark Office  
Box: Non-Fee Amendment  
Washington, D.C. 20231-0001

**Preliminary Amendment**

The present patent application is filed to continue prosecution of subject matter previously disclosed in patent application serial no. 09/044,426, filed on March 19, 1998. This Preliminary Amendment is filed in response to the Examiner's Office Action of February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2002. Please amend the above-referenced patent application as follows:

**In the Claims:**

Please amend claims 1 and 13 as follows:

1. *(Amended):* A computer network for managing operations within a feedlot having a plurality of animal pens each having a feedbunk, said computer network comprising: